



## Maintenance center passes ISO 9000 recertification

**COLIE YOUNG**  
LOGCOM PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Maintenance Center Albany passed its ISO Surveillance Audit Feb. 23.

This is the depot's third such audit since receiving its initial ISO 9001:2000 Certificate of Registration in 2002.

The recent audit was another "feather in the cap" for Marine Corps Logistics Command's depot, according to Johnny Barthlein, MCA ISO management representative, who explained that surveillance audits are conducted every six months.

"The maintenance center passed its audit with zero non-conformity notes, zero improvement notes, and zero

negative written observations," Barthlein said.

"Specific areas of interest for review during this audit consisted of management review, audits, analysis and reporting of data, preventive maintenance, new commodity internal planning and controls on nonconforming material processes," he added.

Because there were no findings, EAQA's recommendation was to continue certification, said Keith Ramsey, director of LogCom's Quality Assurance Office.

"To be ISO certified, an organization must define what it does and how it goes about its business," Ramsey said. "Then capture this in a documented system. In other words,



COLIE YOUNG

EAQA auditors (left to right) Tom Haney and Joe Heath discuss the audit with Johnny Barthlein, Maintenance Center Albany's ISO management representative.

say what you do and do what you say ... and make sure you do it effectively."

Ramsey pointed out that MCA's sister depot at Barstow,

Calif., also passed its surveillance audits, so LogCom leaders have a lot to celebrate.

"The ISO lead auditor used terms like 'world class' when referring to LogCom's maintenance centers," Ramsey said. "Because of both maintenance centers' ISO successes, the command has received great comments from our peers in other services, as well as up our own reporting chain."

During the closing meeting of MCA's Feb. 23 audit, the EAQAuditors expressed their appreciation for the level of knowledge, courtesy, openness and hospitality displayed by all MCA personnel who were interviewed, Barthlein said.

"The auditors commented on the cleanliness of the facility and how well the depot was organized," Barthlein continued. "Specifically, they talked about how everything was in its designated place. Even though we feel great about how far we've come, the most important thing for our depot is to continually demonstrate our value to our stakeholders. ISO registration definitely helps in that regard."

Ramsey added that LogCom's goal is to bring more than just its maintenance centers into ISO compliance.

"Phase One of the next effort is aimed at bringing selected LogCom Headquarters organizations into compliance," Ramsey explained.

"The Quality Assurance Office is spearheading this effort, and first up from the Headquarters' organizations are the Supply Chain Management Center, Maintenance Directorate, Contracts Office, Programs and Resources, Radiological Control and Safety Office, and the Quality Assurance Office itself," Ramsey added.

According to the Quality Assurance director, Phase One consists of documenting core processes so they are defined and, most importantly, repeatable.

"Most critical are those processes that affect the quality and timeliness of our products or services to the operating forces," Ramsey said. ISO 9000 is a generic name given to a family of standards developed to provide a framework around which a quality management system can be effectively based.

For LogCom's maintenance See LogCom — Page 6

## MARFORRES commander visits to inspect CARDF modernization

Story and photos by  
**LANCE CPL. KEVIN J. RIDLON**  
EMBLEM STAFF

Lt. Gen. Dennis M. McCarthy, commander, Marine Forces Reserve, visited here March 5 to inspect the progress and changes made to the Critical Asset Rapid Distribution Facility, which was formerly known as the Special Training Allowance Pool.

According to 1st Lt. Katherine S. Hayes, officer in charge, CARDF, MARFORRES, the facility just underwent a huge modernization effort to bring it into the 21st century.

"We serve as the intermediate storage and distribution facility for new equipment being fielded to the Marine Corps Reserve," Hayes said.

"We hold prepositioned war stock which includes such items as helmets, packs, tents and gortex, for distribution to Selected Marine Corps Reserve units if the need arises, and we will soon be prepositioning weapons and Electronic Key Management System material for distribution to reserve units if the need arises," she pointed out.

Before the big modernization changes happened, STAP supplied critical Type III supply items, primarily cold weather gear, to reserve units for training.

"We are the liaison between MARFORRES and the Logistics Command for the repair of communication and electronic items,



Lt. Gen. McCarthy (center) takes a close look at the new racking systems used at the CARDF here.

and for any other issues that affect the reserve units," Hayes said.

Since the changes have taken place CARDF now supports the entire MARFORRES with cold weather and desert equipment for both training evolutions and contingency operations.

"This is a really significant improvement for MARFORRES' ability to deliver equipment on time when and where they need it," McCarthy said.

CARDF nearly doubled their storage space with the modernization which includes safer and more durable storage equipment.

Additionally, it now also has a computerized inventory management system.

"I have been to this warehouse facility before and I can really see the improvement this facility has made in the past six months or so," McCarthy said. "We are now able to selectively

offload what we have in storage to get the exact mixture of what is needed," she elaborated.

McCarthy went on to say that this change, to a certain extent, was a lesson learned from ongoing Operation Iraqi Freedom requirements and the readiness that is necessary to get equipment and supplies where they need to go in a timely fashion.

After touring CARDF operations, McCarthy complimented the hard work by both Albany Marines and the Sailors involved in the evolutions.

"I expect to see additional changes at this facility in the future that will increase our capacity by installing more modern and up-to-date material handling capabilities," McCarthy said.

"One of those abilities is to exercise better control and tracking of our inventory," she explained.

## MOU addresses educational needs of incoming families

EMBLEM STAFF

A local area Memorandum of Understanding signed here Mar. 10 will make life a little easier for transitioning servicemembers with family when reporting to Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany as a new duty station.

The understanding focuses on military dependent education issues and will assist families reporting here to the base.

In recent months, local district school superintendents have toured the base and discussed the possibility of an education MOU, which confronts the special transitional needs of the military child. On Mar. 10, at the base conference center, all their work and efforts came together during an event where Col. Joseph Wingard, MCLB Albany commanding officer; Dr. Sally Whatley, Dougherty County School Systems superintendent; Dr. Gary Russell, Worth County School Systems superintendent; and Dr. Larry Walters, Lee County School System superintendent signed the MOU.

Due to their transient nature, military families are constantly faced with child education issues such as acceptance of school credits, availability of extracurricular activities, timely transfer of school records and graduation requirements.

Specifically, the MOU outlines how the signatories will work together to support transitional students, such as military dependents.

"Transitioning to a new school is one of the toughest things our military children face. It can be a very trying time for both students and parents. The Memorandum of Understanding that we signed today addresses transitional issues faced by military families. While developed with the military family in mind, it is important to note that it will serve to support ALL families moving into the area, civilian and military alike," Col. Wingard said.

Last year, Gunnery Sgt. Richard Walker was appointed to fill the billet of School Liaison Officer — the first assigned within the continental United States.

His job is to work closely with the local schools and military families to ensure educational needs are properly addressed.

Much of his job involves transitional issues, such as placement and graduation requirements. "The time spent by these leaders in making this MOU a reality was well worth it. The primary focus has always been addressing the transitional needs of our children...I believe this document will benefit them for a long time to come," Walker said.



Gunnery Sgt. Matthew M. Miller (left) explains to contractor Daniel Erickson and Lt. Gen. McCarthy.



LANCE CPL. KEVIN P. RIDLON

### Inside...

Top teams face off in championship play.  
Pg. 3

Monster machines show flexibility.  
Pg. 4

Marine continues to perform on the court.  
Pg. 5

### Splat!

Looking for a change of pace, Marines from S-4 and the Base Adjutant's Office recently challenged each other to a fun-filled afternoon of paintball.

## A Few Good Words



LCDR ROGER RICHARDS  
COMMAND CHAPLAIN

### 'New seasons'

I can tell that it is nearly that time of year again. The weeds are growing everywhere and yellow pollen is now covering everything. I have already had to get out my lawn mower and make sure it is running properly. Before long, my hay fever will be a constant reminder that spring has arrived.

I have to admit, though, that even though it involves hay fever and mowing grass, I really enjoy the spring. I love seeing all of the trees blooming. The Japanese Magnolia trees are either in full bloom or losing their flowers to the emerging leaves. The Bradford pear trees are either covered in new blooms or giving way to new leaves. Green is beginning to cover all of the trees and signs of life are everywhere.

The reality is that I don't just enjoy the spring; I enjoy each season. I am always glad to see the new season arrive and the old one move into the past. I enjoy the changes.

A few years ago, one of my sons called me on my birthday and asked how I felt about having lived half of my life. I replied that I had, in fact, lived all of my life. What he meant was that I had lived half of my life expectancy, but the reality is that I believe that I have truly lived all of my life as fully as I have been able to. Part of that is enjoying the seasons.

I have learned that I need to enjoy the season I am in now. I don't need to be constantly looking with anticipation to the coming season. Neither do I need to live in regret that my favorite time of year is now past. I have learned that each distinct time of year has things of it's own to offer. The summer has plenty of opportunity to go to the beach and swim. The fall is the time I enjoy football as well as a relief from the heat of the summer. I love the winter and snuggling indoors with the one I love. Spring is a time that we see new life budding out everywhere. Each season has something unique to offer.

All of life is that way. Some people spend all of their time worrying about their lost youth and trying to reclaim it. Many people approach their later years with reluctance and dread. Others seem to want to rush to retirement or a chance to cease their labors. Far too few seem to really just enjoy where they are.

I heard someone say that we should not live in the past, because we can do nothing to change it.

We should not live in the future because we have no guarantee of it. Instead, we should cherish the gift of life right now. That is why it is called the present.

Paul had learned that it is important to appreciate every aspect of our lives. He stated that he had learned to be content, regardless of his condition in life.

Whether rich or poor, imprisoned or free, he was content because that was the life God had given him. It was simply up to him how he chose to use it. We can either enjoy our lives and make the most of what we are given, or we can spend all of our time bemoaning what we do not have. The choice is yours.

Semper Fi in the Lord, and I hope to see you in church on Sunday.

### COMMAND RELIGIOUS PROGRAM WORSHIP INFORMATION

Sunday School ..... 9 a.m.  
Divine Services ..... 10:30 a.m.

For more information, call the Base Chapel at  
639-5282. For emergencies, call the  
Officer of the Day at 639-5206.

### Crossroads Restaurant Menu

**Today**  
Soup of the Day  
Express Lunch  
Beef & chicken fajitas  
Chili con carne  
Refried beans  
Soft shell tacos  
Mexican fiesta rice  
Salad bar

Broccoli casserole  
Buttered corn  
Rolls & butter  
Salad bar

**Friday**  
Soup of the Day  
Fried catfish  
Grilled pork chops  
Mashed potatoes  
Cheese grits  
Collard greens  
Cornbread  
Salad bar

**Tuesday**  
Soup of the Day  
Fried chicken  
Sliced roast beef w/gravy  
Mashed potatoes  
Green beans  
Cauliflower w/cheese sauce  
Rolls & butter  
Salad bar

**Monday**  
Soup of the Day  
Liver & onions  
Country fried steak  
Steamed rice

**Wednesday**  
Soup of the Day  
Stuffed peppers  
Chicken w/dumplings  
Scalloped potatoes  
Peas & carrots  
Fried okra  
Rolls & butter  
Salad bar

Lunch Buffet & Lunch Buffet Takeout — \$5.95  
Soup & Salad and Soup & Salad Takeout — \$3.95  
(add dessert \$4.95)  
Express Lunch — \$3.95

Hours of Operation — Mon. - Fri., 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

## Brotherly love ignites motivation



CPL ISAAC PACHECO  
EMBLEM STAFF

### 'Thoughts from the ranks'

Family has always been an important aspect of my life, and the strong connection I've had with my little brother since we were little has grown immensely since I joined the Marine Corps. One of the proudest days of my life was the day he decided to follow in my "yellow" footsteps by taking up the challenge of becoming a Marine himself.

In the blistering cold morning hours of Feb. 27, I had the privilege of watching Josiah (Joe) Pacheco lead Platoon 2021 across the Peatross Parade Deck on Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. Only five months after his 18th birthday, Joe, the youngest recruit in Fox Company,

had become a United States Marine.

His graduation alone would have made me proud, but he exceeded even my expectations by graduating with a meritorious promotion to private first class and a platoon high score on the Physical Fitness Test. It may seem like I'm shamelessly bragging, and I am, but I also rediscovered a few things about myself that day.

As Joe's company marched around the parade deck, I reminisced about the long, cold hours I'd spent only a few years ago, practicing and perfecting drill for my graduation.

Standing at attention for what seemed like hours, I had often thought about what had driven me to join the Marine Corps rather than finish my journalism degree.

"What am I going to do as a journalist in the Marine Corps?" I've had that thought even recently.

As I watched my brother keeping time, his platoon moving perfectly in sync with the drill instructor's commands, I began to realize the answer to that question. It was

n't simply an answer to my question but to the question that each of us has asked at some point in our careers, "What am I doing here?"

I hadn't joined to be all I could be, or to accelerate my life. The Marine Corps never asked me to aim higher; actually it never really recruited me at all. I was just another college student walking around campus, oblivious to the real world outside my comfortable little bubble. The problem was that I realized my normalcy. I wasn't happy living the mediocre life of excess and safety. I needed to be challenged and accomplish the impossible. I needed to belong to something bigger than myself.

I needed to be a scout reconnaissance underwater skydiving search and rescue sniper recovery officer. I knew that would be the only way of proving my worth to the world. The Marine recruiter, whose office I proudly strode into later that day, told me, between laughs, that my plan might need a little tweaking.

It's a funny story but here's the point, I didn't sign up to be a job.

I didn't join a unit with a motto of "get paid or strike." I joined a proud fraternity with an impeccable legacy and a dedication to Honor, Courage and Commitment.

Before my brother's final dismissal, I stood at attention for the playing of the Marine Corps Hymn, and realized that this moment was what it was all about. The hard work, the sweat, the angry man with the Smokey Bear hat. It all led to a focused point of glory, a crowning achievement that no one could ever take away.

As I rushed out onto the parade deck to congratulate my new hard-charger I finally understood why I had made the same journey more than two years before. I had done it for him, and for the future generations of Devil dogs to come.

If you're feeling a little low on motivation, I suggest you visit the island where it all began. I'd say April 16 sounds about right. That's when my other little brother, Josh, is due to graduate.

Give him an "Ooh Rah" for me if you see him. Semper Fi.



### Pennies for Puppies

The Pre-Kindergarten and Head Start classes here recently donated more than \$400 to the Albany Humane Society for the Pennies for Puppies campaign. Each year, pennies are collected to help pay for spaying dogs and cats that have been adopted.



CPL. DENELLE D. D'AVITA

## Leave donations requests for employee emergencies

The Annual Leave Transfer Program may be used by employees to request to become annual leave recipients if they or a member of their family suffers a medical emergency. To donate annual leave submit an Optical Form 630-A.

• **Kimberly Vidal**, an employee of Logistics Operations, needs leave donations due to illness. Call Barbara Akers at 639-5565.

• **Karel Giese**, an employee of the Business Performance Office, needs leave donations for illness. Call Karen Phillips at 639-7161.

• **Robert A. Dickerson**, an employee of Maintenance Center Albany, needs leave donations due to illness. Call Thomas Newton at 639-6348.

• **Tracy Jo Singletary**, an employee of SCMC, needs leave donations to care for family member. Call Zeldia M. Collier at 639-5748.

• **Ruth J. Bailey**, an employee of Installation and Logistics Division, needs leave donations for surgery. Call Diane McCall at 639-5652.

• **Beryl W. Brown**, an employee of Fleet Support Division, needs

leave donations for recuperation from auto accident. Call Sherrie Kuck at 639-5881.

• **Jerome W. Vick**, an employee of Maintenance Center Albany, needs leave donations for surgery. Call Mack Prater at 639-5796.

• **Kenneth E. Shiver**, an employee of Maintenance Center Albany, needs leave donations to care for family member. Call Jimmy Shiver at 639-5375.

• **Frank Laster**, an employee of Fleet Support Division, needs leave donations for recuperation. Call Sherrie Kuck at 639-5881.

• **Sandra P. Ellerson**, an employee of the Resource Management Division, needs leave donations due to illness. Call Sandy Rickett at 639-7013.

• **Reid E. Merritt**, an employee of Maintenance Center Albany, needs leave donations to care for family member. Call Brenda Brandt at 639-6308.

• **Linda D. Scott**, an employee

of SCMC, needs leave donations to care for family member. Call Jeanette Bell at 639-8213.

• **Cynthia A. Howard**, an employee of Marine Corps Systems Command, needs leave donations for recuperation from surgery. Call Ron Howard at 639-7355.

• **Glenda S. Lanier**, an employee of Fleet Support Division, needs leave donations for care of family member. Call Sherrie Kuck at 639-5881.

• **George R. Batchelder**, an employee of Risk Management Branch, needs leave donations for care of family member. Call Merrill Dickinson at 639-5249.

• **Nancy H. Bitwinick**, an employee of C-4, needs leave donations for recuperation from surgery. Call Valerie Byrd at 639-6661.

To become a leave recipient, an employee must submit a copy of Optional Form 630. For more information on the program, call 639-5228.

of SCMC, needs leave donations for recuperation. Contact Mary Beth Parsons at 639-8200.

• **Cynthia A. Howard**, an employee of Marine Corps Systems Command, needs leave donations for recuperation from surgery. Call Ron Howard at 639-7355.

• **Glenda S. Lanier**, an employee of Fleet Support Division, needs leave donations for care of family member. Call Sherrie Kuck at 639-5881.

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To become a leave recipient, an employee must submit a copy of Optional Form 630. For more information on the program, call 639-5228.

### Base Theater Schedule

FRIDAY - MAR.19

7 p.m. -- *Catch That Kid*, rated PG — Kristen Stewart, Corbin Bleu, Jennifer Beals, Max Theorist, Sam Robards

SATURDAY - MAR.20

7 p.m. -- *Catch That Kid*, rated PG — Kristen Stewart, Corbin Bleu, Jennifer Beals, Max Theorist, Sam Robards

WEDNESDAY - MAR. 24

7 p.m. -- *Barbershop 2 - Back In Business*, rated PG13 — Ice Cube, Cedric the Entertainer, Garcelle Beauvais, Queen Latifah

### Free Admission

|                 |        |                     |        |
|-----------------|--------|---------------------|--------|
| Hot Dog .....   | \$ .75 | Large soda .....    | \$1.00 |
| Sausage .....   | \$1.00 | Small soda .....    | \$ .75 |
| Nachos .....    | \$1.00 | Large popcorn ..... | \$1.50 |
| Candy .....     | \$ .50 | Med. popcorn .....  | \$1.00 |
| Slim Jims ..... | \$ .75 | Small popcorn ..... | \$ .75 |

### Community Briefs

— Key Volunteer training will be Apr. 5-6, 9 a.m. - noon in the Children, Youth & Teen Programs Office, Bldg. 3600.

Registration deadline is Apr. 1. Free childcare and refreshments will be provided. Call 639-5199 for more information and to register.

— The 2004 OSC Scholarship Auction is scheduled to be held Mar. 27 in the MCLB Conference Center. Social hour and registration will go from 6 - 9 p.m. The silent auction begins at 7 p.m. There will be gift certificates and many other items at the auction. The Marine Party Band will perform. For more information, call Anita Underwood at 903-9063 or Gina Lazar at 446-4394.

— A St. Patrick's Day celebration will be held at the Officers' Club tomorrow. Social hour and hors d'oeuvres begin at 6 p.m., followed by a live band performance.

Call 639-7715 for more information. — Lee County High School will be presenting the stage play "Oliver" Mar. 19, 20, 25, 26 & 27 at 8 p.m. and Mar. 21 at 2:30 p.m. in Lee County's Clay Auditorium. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for students. Call 903-2297 for more information.



## The Emblem



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Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany.....Col. Joseph R. Wingard  
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# SNCOs stumble, rebound in championship game

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
LANCE CPL. KEVIN J RIDLON  
EMBLEM STAFF

The SNCOs pulled everything together to defeat the GME "Hawks," 64-59, in an unbelievable two-game fight, March 8, to gain the championship title of the 2004 Intramural Basketball season.

The SNCOs started this championship run by winning the regular season championship with an undefeated season of 7-0. The SNCOs came close to going undefeated throughout the playoffs, but lost to the Hawks, 70-59, in the first of two championship games.

Although the loss prolonged celebration by the SNCOs, it didn't knock the elder, more experienced squad from double elimination play. Later that evening, the SNCOs squared off against the Hawks in a second game.

The Hawks surprised the crowd by keeping the game relatively even, trading baskets with the SNCOs point for point. In the second half, they dominated the SNCOs and went on to end the SNCOs undefeated season. The Hawks came out victorious, 70-59.

This first loss for the SNCOs resulted in the two teams facing off once again. In this final game, however, the SNCOs seemed determined to ground the Hawks and stop them from flying off with the championship trophy.

The SNCOs made good on early scoring opportunities, jumping to an early lead. On defense, they started the game in a zone defense. On offense, they proceeded at a slower pace than the Hawks. This strategy seemed to work for the SNCOs, helping the team jump out to a comfortable lead.

The Hawks started to pick up their game after a couple of minutes of play. The SNCOs reacted to this quickly and turned up their defense and offense, as well. They started to rely more on the skills of Darryll Reynolds and John Richards who contributed 13 and 14 points, respectively.

With consistent scoring on several drives to the basket, Richards' scoring, coupled with the points made by Reynolds who banged with Hawks' defenders inside the paint, was instrumental in helping the SNCOs maintain their lead.

With 10 minutes remaining in the first half, the SNCOs led, 20-12.

The SNCOs put even more points on the scoreboard with outside shooting by guards Lawrence Floyd and Anthony Jackson, who collectively led the scoring attack by canning several three pointers.

As the first half wound to an end, the Hawks turned to Larry Parker. Undoubtedly filling the role as the Hawks' "big man," Parker was versatile in his ability to score. He worked himself inside to make the easy layups, and netted several shots from the outside. Parker finished the game with 24 points to lead all scorers. Despite his efforts, however, the SNCOs still held a commanding lead. By the end of the first half, the SNCOs were ahead 41-31.

"We thought we would be able to ride the momentum from the earlier game, but we started out flat on offense and defense," Parker said. "The SNCOs are veterans, and you cannot afford to let them get up and trade baskets and still expect to win."

Unlike in the first game when the Hawks dominated the second half, the SNCOs reversed roles in the second game. They showed the Hawks what they were made of and jumped out to their biggest lead, 52-38.

The SNCOs appeared to be more physical in the second game, using their experience to capitalize on the missed shots and mistakes of the Hawks.

At 6'6" and 235 lbs., Jimmy Wheeler used his height and strength to grab the loose rebounds and make key blocks for the SNCOs. He led the SNCOs with 22 points.

Halfway through the second half, the game started to take a turn in the favor of the Hawks.

With nine minutes left to play, the Hawks started to make a run by breaking up plays and recovering rebounds from mistakes made by the SNCOs.

A minute later, "And One!" was heard throughout the gymnasium by excited fans, as they witnessed Parker, the Hawks' big man, get fouled by Floyd just as he netted another three pointer.

Parker made good on his free throw attempt, turning the scoring opportunity into a four-point play. This play gave the Hawks an unexpected boost of energy, as they went on a scoring rampage.

The Hawks' defense was also more intense, and subsequently slowed the SNCOs' offense down in the closing minutes of the game.

The last-minute efforts of the Hawks were not enough, though. The SNCOs made good on their last-minute foul shots, closing out the game with a 64-59 win to walk away with the coveted hardware — the championship trophy.

"We were by far the oldest team in the league, but we played well together," Wheeler said. "What we lacked in athleticism, we made up in heart and court experience."

"I think three things got us through the season," he added. "Experience, Reynolds putting it down low, and lots of Ben Gay."

The camaraderie and experience of the SNCOs played a significant role in their victory. Even when it appeared the Hawks were making a comeback, the SNCOs remained calm and stuck to their gameplan.

"They said we were too old; they said we were too slow. They even said that we couldn't do it, but we did. We finished the regular season undefeated, and put it all on the line in the championship game," said Floyd, who remained a constant threat behind the three-point line throughout the entire season.

According to Floyd, the SNCOs were destined to win.

"Tournament play is different, and we knew adjustments would be made to try and stop us from winning it all," he exclaimed. "We knew we would come out victorious, because we knew they couldn't contain our outside shooting, stop our inside game, and match us with their experience."



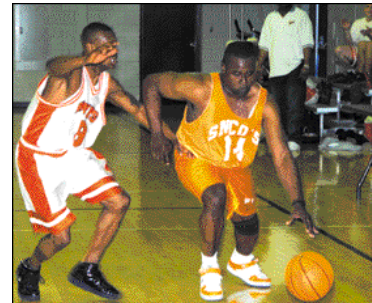
Richards shoots a layup against Hawks' defenders during the championship game. The SNCOs won the game, 64-59.



Richards struggles to break free from Hawks' defen-sivemen William Cheers (#34) and Willie Houser (far right) after recovering a rebound.



Willie Houser attempts to drive past SNCO's Tony Turner on his way to the basket.



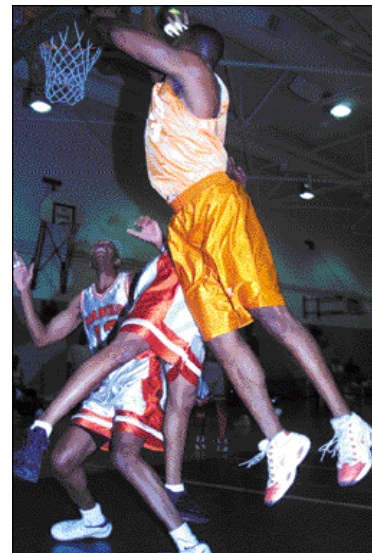
Floyd, SNCOs' point guard, drives past Hawks' Willie Houser in an attempt to move the ball up court.



Darryll Reynolds pulls up for two of his 13 points, as the Hawks' Cortez Fields tries to draw a charging foul.



Floyd makes his way to the basket against Hawks' defender Willie Houser.



Reynolds towers over two Hawks' defensivemen while attempting to score a layup.

# Monster machines provide more flexibility, speed

Story and photos by  
**CP. ISAAC PACHECO**  
EMBLEM STAFF

The Marine Corps has recently begun upgrading the Amphibious Assault Vehicle to take on faster speeds and more demanding loads.

The new suspension systems require more than 384 manhours each to complete, and a military contractor aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany is making it happen.

United Defense Ltd., located in a warehouse by the base's back gate, may have a nondescript building, but the work that goes on inside is keeping Marine AAVs at the forefront of today's battlefield technology.

"The new suspension systems are designed to support more weight, and are only one of the improvements to

the AAVs," explained Bud LaPlaca, manufacturing supervisor.

"The upgraded vehicles are more durable, higher off the ground, and have more horsepower," he continued.

Only 12 employees work in the United Defense building here, yet they are tasked with completing upgrades to seven AAVs each month.

Their task is retrofitting the new suspension systems onto the more than 600 remaining Marine Corps AAVs.

It may seem nearly impossible with so few people working on them, but the contractors have a few tricks up their sleeves.

Engineers and welders use "monster machines" to help them accomplish their crucial mission.

One of these machines, nicknamed "turnover," lifts more than 15 tons and is used

to rotate the AAVs' stripped hulls.

"We use the turnover to rotate the AAVs into positions where our welding will be more effective," LaPlaca said.

"By rotating the (AAV) hulls around precisely, we're able to get more even welds and less imperfections."

United Defense workers rely on another machine that uses an ultra-hot plasma beam to cut through the two-inch thick armored aluminum and still another that punches out exact patterns into the hollowed out AAV shells.

"I couldn't get my job done without these machines," said Kimble Jackson, a United Defense welder.

"We need (the machines) to get our tasks accomplished," he denoted.

With so many machines around, Kimble added that workers must constantly be

alert and focus on safety issues. Visitors and workers in low risk jobs are required to wear protective goggles and ear plugs at all times in the warehouse.

Welders must wear a full body protective suit, complete with an air filtration system to prevent particle inhalation.

United Defense Ltd. originally manufactured AAVs for the Marine Corps in 1985, and continues to represent the company the Corps relies on for maintenance and upgrades.

The company began production here in 1994.

It is currently upgrading 54 AAVs that the Thai military purchased from the Marine Corps.

Work will resume on the second phase of Marine Corps AAVs this upcoming June.



**Welder Kimble Jackson** is shown here using a special saw to shear off an old armor plate mount. Nicknamed "Turnover," the giant machine below lifts more than 15 tons, and is used to rotate AAV hulls.



## Poison prevention hints, tips

**DAVID GAFFNEY**  
RISK MANAGEMENT OFFICE

The American Association of Poison Control Centers reports that every 30 seconds a child is poisoned in the United States. That's over a million a year. Don't delay; look around your own home for proper storage of chemicals and medicines. Keep all chemicals and medicines out of sight of children and, preferably, locked up when not in use. Leave original labels on all products and securely close all child-resistant packaging after use. Children act fast and a minor distraction on your part can spell disaster.

If you believe a child has ingested a poison, remain calm. Follow first aid instructions on the label, then contact the

Poison Control Center, doctor or 911. The Poison Control Center phone number for the state of Georgia is: 1-(800) 222-1222.

Keep emergency numbers posted by the phone, and be prepared to act fast. Seconds count. Keep a bottle of "syrup of ipecac" on hand, but use only if the poison center or doctor instructs you to induce vomiting.

More than 51 percent of these calls involved children under the age of five. Recent studies have shown that 78 percent of all accidental poisonings can be handled at home, avoiding the inconvenience and expense of a visit to a hospital emergency room.

Children can get very sick if they are poisoned. Children ages 1 to 3 are at highest risk.

Young children may put anything in their mouths. This is a part of learning.

Many household products can be poisonous if swallowed, if in contact with skin or eyes, or if inhaled.

### POISON PREVENTION SAFETY RULES

- Keep harmful products locked up and out of your child's sight and reach.
- Use safety latches or locks on drawers and cabinets where you keep dangerous items.
- Take extra care during stressful times.

- Call medicine by its correct name. You do not want to confuse the child by calling medicine candy.

- Always replace the safety caps immediately after use.

- Never leave alcohol within the child's reach.

- Seek help if your child swallows a substance that is not food. Call the Poison Help Line at 1-800-222-1222 or your doctor.

- Keep the emergency telephone numbers by your phone.

- Keep products in their original containers. Never put non-food products in food or drink containers.

- Read labels with care before using any product.

- Teach children not to drink or eat anything unless an adult gives it to them.

- Do not take medicine in front of small children. Children tend to copy adult behavior.

- Check your home often for old medications and get rid of them by flushing them down the toilet.

- Get rid of substances used for old-fashioned treatments such as oil of wintergreen, boric acid, ammoniated mercury, oil of turpentine, and camphorated oil.

- There is more of a danger of poisoning when you are away from home, especially at a grandparent's home.

## Alcohol awareness saves lives

**BRENDA RAY**  
MARINE & FAMILY SERVICES

Don't let alcohol put a chill on your summer, urges Marine & Family Services by helping citizens aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, GA understand a few simple facts about alcohol.

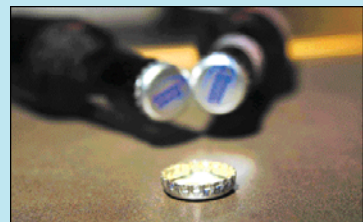
The sunshine, warmth and long days of the coming season provide a wealth of opportunities for recreation and relaxation, but, when mixed with alcohol, these activities can turn dangerous and even deadly.

"Alcohol consumption results in a gradual dulling of reactions of the brain and nervous system, turning normal situations into potentially dangerous ones," says Dr. Nicholas A. Pace, M.D., a board member of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. in New York City.

"It causes a loss of inhibitions, which leads to aggressiveness, poor judgment, and reckless movements in the water while boating, swimming and diving. It can cause faulty coordination and disorientation in the water, impairing swallowing and breathing reflexes — which are essential to swimming."

The following statistics underscore the negative consequences of alcohol use.

- Drinking may be a factor in 80% of boating fatalities, says the National Transportation Safety Board. According to the National Safety Council, boating accidents are this country's second-largest cause of transportation injuries.



FILE PHOTO

- According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, alcohol is involved in an estimated 38% of drowning deaths.

Data assembled recently for the Surgeon General shows that this number rises to between 40 and 50% for young males.

- 40-50% of all diving injury victims consume alcoholic beverages, according to the same report.

For heavy drinkers, alcohol consumption during the summer months can contribute to heat prostration.

This dehydration also can increase your chances of having a stroke, particularly for individuals with high blood pressure.

Hypoglycemia and heart rhythm irregularities are additional dangers of drinking on a hot, sunny day.

With so much fun to be had, why let alcohol put a chill on your summer?

People under the age of 21, drivers and people planning water-related recreational activities should stay away from alcohol.

Even those who observe the

Federal government's recommendations for moderate drinking (two drinks per day for men, one for women) should bear in mind that alcohol may affect them differently during their favorite summer activity.

For a free copy of "Summer Drinking Tips," send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to (Alcohol Awareness Tips c/o Brenda Ray, MCLB, 814 Radford Blvd. Suite 20311 Albany, Ga. 31704).

You can also contact the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc., 20 Exchange Place, Suite 2902, New York, NY 10005; or,

- phone: 212-269-7797.
- fax: 212-269-7510.
- email: [national@ncadd.org](mailto:national@ncadd.org)
- Visit Web site: [www.ncadd.org](http://www.ncadd.org).

- Call HOPE LINE: 1-800-NCA-CALL (24-hour Affiliate referral). For more information, contact Marine & Family Services Prevention & Education at 639-5252, or contact the Substance Abuse Counseling Center at 639-7937.



# Albany Marine excels on court

LANCE CPL. KEVIN J. RIDLON  
EMBLEM STAFF

A 6'6" Dallas native got to show his basketball skills to the world, as he made his way to the All-Armed Forces Basketball Team this past year and played in the World Military Games.

Staff Sgt. Jimmy Wheeler, radio technician, Technician Assistants Team here, has made his way to the All-Marine Basketball Team four times from 1998-2001.

Despite his ability to play the sport very well, Wheeler claims that he wasn't very good when he first started playing.

"The first time I played organized basketball I was in the ninth grade," Wheeler said. "I was so bad, though, I didn't play the next year, and I didn't play again until college."

Wheeler started his college career at Warden Junior College where he was convinced to play basketball.

"I was just going to the college for the education and since I was tall, everyone kept asking me if I was going to try out for the basketball team," Wheeler said. "I eventually tried out and made the team and became one of the starters."

After the first year at Warden, Wheeler transferred to Saint Edwards University where he finished his last three years of college while playing basketball.

"Basketball had the most influence on me in college," Wheeler said. "That is where I did the most running and was in

better shape. I was burned out from playing basketball after college and that is part of the reason I joined the Marine Corps."

After many years in the Marine Corps, Wheeler became one of the lucky ones and got picked to play on the All-Marine team for the first time in 1998.

According to Wheeler, the process of making it to the All-Marine team takes a month.

"The first step is to start off with your base team," Wheeler added. "Then you are picked to go to the Regionals, which is broken down to include teams from the East Coast, West Coast and Okinawa."

"After the Regionals are over the 12 best players from each coast and eight from Okinawa are picked to try out for the All-Marine team, which is based at Camp Lejeune," he added.

When on the All-Marine team, players get a chance to play some college teams, such as East Carolina and Virginia Union, and even the opportunity to play a National Basketball Association developmental team.

The All-Marine team then plays in the All-Armed Forces Basketball Tournament.

The All-Armed Forces tournament pits Marine athletes against the best players from the Navy, Army and Air Force.

After the All-Armed Forces tournament, the best 12 players from each service are picked to play on the Armed Forces team.

In 1999, 2000 and 2001, Wheeler was selected to be a member of the Armed Forces

team but eventually decided to only participate on the team in 2000.

The Armed Forces team plays in the Shape tournament that is played in Belgium. This tournament consists of playing the best military teams from around the area.

Even though the last time Wheeler made it to the All-Marine team was in 2001, the coaches of the Armed Forces team wanted him to come back and play again this past year in the World Military Games.

According to Wheeler, the World Military Games are just like the Olympics but for the military, and are similar to the Olympics because they are only played every four years.

This past years games were held in Italy and the Armed Forces team played against many different countries, such as North and South Korea, Russia and Canada.

"The teams were supposed to be all military teams, but some countries brought in pro players as reserves," Wheeler said. "There was definitely pro level talent out there."

Wheeler went on to say that the whole process went on to last six to eight weeks and the schedule was a tough one.

Practices were held everyday for three hours in the morning and three hours in the afternoon. There was also no cut-off of how many times a player could play on one of these teams.

"It is a trial process," Wheeler added. "You have to make it every year. It's more about how hard you work rather than how good you are."

This year, the Regionals start in September and will last until November.

"From my experience playing with teams like that, everyone is a star from wherever they came from. So when we all get together, the coaches look for the people that make the team look good rather than themselves," Wheeler said. "It's all about being unselfish and making the players better around you."



COURTESY PHOTO

## Seminar benefits MCLB patrons

Linda C. Nantz, the DoD liaison officer to MCLB Albany, presented a training seminar to Maintenance Center Albany supervisors on the Federal Employees Compensation Act. Nantz visited here March 11 to provide expert consultation services to the command and employees filling out workers' compensation claims.



LANCE CPL. KEVIN J. RIDLON

Despite his many years of experience playing on the All-Marine and All-Armed Forces basketball teams, Wheeler continues to show his skills on the court. He recently led the SNCOs to the championship title of the 2004 Intramural Basketball League.

# 2004 OSC



## Scholarship Auction

The 2004 OSC Scholarship Auction will be Mar. 27 in the MCLB Conference Center.

Social hour and registration will be 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. The silent auction begins at 7 p.m. There will be gift certificates and many other items at the auction.

The Marine Party Band will perform.

### All base personnel are invited!

Among the many items at the auction will include: 30-minute massage • gift certificates • queen size crocheted Afghan • Dolphin Tour/Tybee Island • dinner cruise on the Emerald Princess • Wild Animal Safari tickets • Madam Butterfly tickets/Atlanta Opera Center • bronze golfer statue • pink fesh water pearl necklace and MUCH, MUCH MORE!

For more information concerning the scholarship program, applications or the auction, call Anita Underwood at 903-9063 or Gina Lazar at 446-4394.

**LogCom** — From Page 1  
centers, a quality management system is a well-documented system that ensures consistency and improvement of working practices, including the products and services the depots produce.  
ISO 9000 is the most commonly used international standard that provides a framework for a quality management system.  
Although once an organization is certified, that certification is good for three years — or rather, that organization is considered compliant for three years — surveillance audits are conducted every six months.

LogCom will host a semi-annual quality assurance conference here March 23 and 24.  
ISO management representatives from the Maintenance Centers, Fleet Support Division, Blount Island Command and those involved in Headquarters compliance will attend the conference.

"In addition, the NAVAIR ISO Corporation Management Representative will attend the conference to offer his perspective," Ramsey went on to say.  
The next audit for MCLB Albany is scheduled to take place in late August or early September.

## MCLB ALBANY SAFETYGRAM

### The WHAT MARINE FATALITY RISK FACTORS

- **Early Career:** During the second six months in service, a Marine's risk of accidental death is twice what it is at other times.
- **Post Deployment:** The risk of vehicle-related death doubles during the 7 month period following a deployment.
- **Demotion:** Three to 6 months after a demotion, the risk of accidental death is twice as high as at other times.
- **MOS:** Artillery, aviation mechanics, motor transport mechanics, engineers, and infantry MOS's have risks of accidental death 37% to 69% higher than other Marines.
- **Location:** Marines living on base have a 21% higher risk of accidental death than those living off-base.
- **Enlistment Waiver:** Marines with enlistment waivers have a 66% to 83% increase risk of accidental death compared to those who enter the Corps without waivers.
- **Race and Ethnicity:** Blacks have 35% and Hispanics a 26% greater risk of having a fatal accident than do whites.
- **Time of year:** Late summer months are associated with a 52% increase in risk relative to the winter quarter.
- **Vehicle Fatality by Time of Day:** Death rate of Marines in the morning rush hours of 0500 to 0759 are significantly above those of civilians during the same hours.

### The So WHAT WHAT YOU CAN DO

- **Know Your Marines:** Be aware of Marines who have multiple risk factors. Marines with multiple risk factors are at even greater risk of accidental death!
- **Mentor High-Risk Marines:** Lead, train, coach, counsel, adopt, and care for them. Know their off-duty plans, where they will be and what they'll be doing.
- **Buddy-Up and Maintain 2-Person Integrity:** Pair high-risk Marines with another Marine to provide oversight to identify and prevent at-risk behavior.
- **Discuss These Risk Factors with Your Marines.**



Click to view Releasements  
CNA Study, Statistics of Analysis of USMC Accidental Deaths, Oct 03

Risk Management Office 630-5249



### National Naval Officers Association (NNOA)

The Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany chapter of the National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) is pleased to offer two \$1000 scholarships to the graduating class of 2004.

Winners of the scholarship will be based upon academic achievement and leadership displayed in the school and community.

High school seniors who plan to attend an accredited 2 or 4 year institution during the fall 2004 semester are eligible.

Deadline for application submission is March 30<sup>th</sup>. Applications are available via the attachment to this weekend and by contacting the guidance counselor of any local high school. The scholarships will be awarded at NNOA's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Banquet 1 May 2004. For more information call Capt Parker at 630-7218 or send email to [parkerid@logcom.mil](mailto:parkerid@logcom.mil)



### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

MARCH 2004

THEME:

### "WOMEN - INSPIRING HOPE AND POSSIBILITY"

MCLB's Special Emphasis Program Committee (SEPC) has planned a program at the Base Conference Center on 24 March 2004 from 11:00-1:00 in observance of Women's History Month.

The program will feature a forum of four panel members highlighting the theme, "Women - Inspiring Hope and Possibility." Participants are:

Dr. Portia Holmes-Shields, President, Albany State University  
Major Sylvia Lee (Retired, USMC)  
Ms. Sandra Richards, Strategic Planning and Development Division, CHRO  
Ms. Nancy Wilson, FEI Branch Head, Trades Dept., Maintenance Center

Tickets for this event may be purchased for \$6.00 per person from the SEPC members:

|                   |          |                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| Sabrina Brown     | 630-5723 | Roger Haler       | 630-4075 |
| Capt K. Walden    | 630-4975 | Dianne Pitts      | 630-4066 |
| Maj. J. Blackford | 630-5661 | Carla Cruz        | 630-5332 |
| Pauline Skinner   | 630-7454 | Kay Loney         | 630-5325 |
| Vickie Eberhart   | 630-6471 | Nancy Burdick     | 630-5243 |
| Myrielle Dowdy    | 630-5010 | Anthony Raveh     | 630-5649 |
| Deborah Fruhauf   | 630-5225 | Bill Robinson     | 630-7134 |
| Barbara Whaley    | 630-5275 | MC Sgt D. Leonard | 630-6663 |
| Melanie Ruckles   | 630-5250 | Sgt C. Koss       | 630-5046 |

\*\*\*Menu\*\*\*

Tossed Garden Salad with Cherry Tomatoes and Crumbled Bacon  
Penne Pasta Primavera—Penne Pasta tossed with fresh vegetables in Alfredo Sauce  
Blackened Chicken and Parmesan Bread Sticks  
Turtle Cheesecake(Cheesecake with Chocolate and Caramel Toppings), Iced Tea and Coffee

Everyone is invited to attend.

Seating is limited. Tickets must be purchased by noon 19 Mar 04.

"Attendance for all activities may be authorized by Department Heads/Immediate Supervisors, and charged to training."

Please contact the Equal Opportunity Division, CHRO, at 630-5250 if you need any special accommodations.